

History of Photojournalism  
Fall 2013

Written/reflective assignment #1: Examining history

History is often presented to an audience as a factual, objective account of the past, implying that it is accurate and to be accepted. But history is studied and written by people with a perspective or specific purpose in mind. Sometimes the perspective is obvious. Sometimes it is not.

As we start the semester it's important to begin building a framework through which to approach the study of history. Our class discussion has introduced some questions about the way history has traditionally been approached. Our first readings have raised questions about the use of historical documents and suggested questions that historians might ask when evaluating source materials.

How will the questions and perspectives raised in class and in the readings influence your study of history this semester? Consider the following questions:

- Which of the questions Scherer raises do you believe is the most important to consider?
- Why do you consider it to be the most important?
- Does the information in discussion and readings cause you to start rethinking your historical knowledge? If yes, what event/person/period are you questioning? If not, why?
- How useful do you think these questions might be in the practice of journalism/mass communication in your concentration area?

Tip: Don't just parrot back in writing exactly what's in the articles or the slides on screen. Synthesize and summarize the material and apply the ideas to your answer.

Limit your answer to roughly 250 words. Submit your finished short essay through the course Blackboard site before class August 27.